Abstract

A component for adjusting the capacity of a network link between the component and another component is disclosed. The component receives a first data signal and transmits across forward channels of the network link a plurality of second data signals carrying the data of the first data signal and control information for a plurality of third data signals. The component further receives the plurality of third data signals across respective return channels, these third data signals carrying control information for the plurality of second data signals. The control information includes status information for less than a maximum number of the forward channels, and the status information is out of phase within each of the return channels in respect of the forward channels to which the status information relates. The component is responsive to this status information to adjust the capacity of the network link.